

ああっ女神さまっ

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

41

Oh My Goddess!





Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

41



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WITH Tom2K



DARK HORSE MANGA™



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CHAPTER 255

Dividing the Darkness











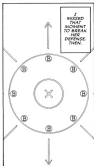
I SEE...
SHE
COULDN'T
HANDLE
SUB-
DIVIDING.



A
STANDARD
SPELL...
SO WHY
DIDN'T
SHE
DO
IT
BEFORE...?



THAT
BADASS
GENT WERE
SOME
SCHOOL...
IT'S HER
PHYSICAL
FORCE
FIELD.



I
NEEDED
THAT
MOMENT
TO
BREAK
AND
DEFENCE
THEM.



AND
YET... WHAT
NOW, HENRY?

AND
YET...



NOW
YOU HAVE
NO
STRENGTH
TO STEEL
ME
DOWN.

...FOR THE
POWER
OF EACH
OF YOU
DIVIDED
IS SO
EACH
WEAKER.

THAT
WAS
STILL A
TACTICAL
MISTAKE...





NICE
POSE,
BUT I'M
OVER
HERE,
YOU
KNOW.



DON'T
ENTER
THE
FIELD

MISTAKE
PRO.
THE
POWER
TO
DEFEAT
YOU...



WHATT?





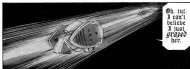
















I'M
NOT
SEEING
IT...



WHY??









SHE
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
PULL A
TURN
AND THEN
IF SHE
DID...

...SHOULD
BE
IMPOSS-
IBLE.

NOW I
KNOW A
BIT ABOUT
AERODY-
NAMICS.
CONTROLLED
SUPERSONIC
FLIGHT IN
THIS SMALL
SPACE...



Are YOU
are the
one who
bears
out this
of me,
mortal
...?

BUT SHE
TOLD
ME
ALL
OF THIS...



GLADNESS
HERE
SAID IT
WOULD
BE
IMPOSS-
IBLE...

...FOR
ANY-
ONE
ELSE.

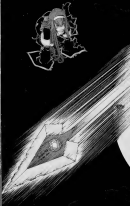


THE
IMPOSSIBLE
G-FORCE
WOULD
FEAR
HER
APART.

*for
know that
even with
Hagirens
I'd
survive
it...*



...I have
never
before
shown
anyone my
best.





CHAPTER 254

El Vista



SHES
NOT
HUMAN.

HER
EYES
BUT
NOT
NEED
TIME TO
ADJUST.

A
TRAP?

AS
GOOD
AS
DARK-
NESS.

BLINDING
LIGHT...

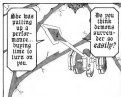






















I'LL
HAVE TO
STICK MY
TONGUE
DOWN
THEIR
EARS
AND...

OR I MAY
HAVE CAST
MY SPELL
TOO DEEPLY.
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
CERTAIN
WAY TO
CANCEL
IT.



OH,
WOOFY
MADE A
LIFE
SOUND!
SCOWST?

THANK
YOU,
DID
THE
TRICK.

MY
OLEA
SAGE.

...SUCK
THE
SOUND
OUT...

OH, WHY
WHA? I
BURN
DOING
ALL THIS
TINNY!





CHAPTER 257

Fist of the Demon





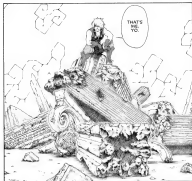


WHAT'S THAT FOR?



































DEAR A
MOMENT...
OF
SOMETHING
THESE
PODS
CAN'T
DESTROY...

I
DESTROY
ALL
THINGS.



THE
ONLY
WAY
TO
DESTROY
IT



THAT
ONE-ARM
CUT.







...I
WANT TO
LEARN
MORE!



LET'S
SEE HOW
TOY NO
POWER
CAN
LIGHTNING

...Flashing
between
the
Clouds...

...Facing
to the
Heavens...



...STRIKE,
FIRE
THUNDER
BOOTS!!



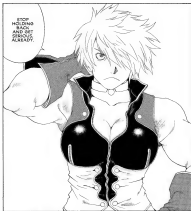




Invincible Thrym











DIDN'T YOU WORRY ABOUT TAKING AN OUTH?

IF I HAD WARNED YOU, GIMON WOULD HAVE KNOCKED YOU OUT!

ALRIGHT!



MAYBE NOT TOTAL, BUT...

BOOM

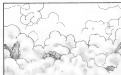


ANY MORE AND YOU'RE A RUINER!

CAN I TRY IT...?

HEY... THAT LOOKS FUN!

SURE, I GUESS...





SH
HEH
HEH...



...WAS
A
BLAST!!

NOTH
THAT.















*Kaido, true to his Devil Fruit type, used a Hordian AKA CP shoulder-mounted rocket weapon. The shoulder mount was behind the back that, making it safer for the user to attack enemies (that is, in "OH" not-fired space). It's considered a lower-end alternative to the 04 mm Carl Gustav rocket rifle. Shoulder-mounted rocket launcher.











OH MY GODDESS!

KEIICHI MORISATO



CHAPTER 259

Invitation to Sleep







IT'S THE
ULTIMATE
LULLABY
LALMOUUM



THE
DANGER
OF
THE
SPELL...

SAY TO
HAVE ONLY
PUT HIMSELF
TO
SLEEP. THE
DRAGON THAT
GUARDED THE
BOOK OF
MAGNARITY



NOT
THAT
LALMOUUM
...!!

QUICK!
LALMOUUM
JAMIT



NO...
BUT IT
CERTAINLY
SOUNDS
SUPERB...

YOU
GUYS
HAVE
HEARD
OF IT,
RIGHT?



THIS
IS THE
SONG...



!!



...HIGHT
THINK WHY
ARE WE
ORAY?



SURELY
WHO DO YOU
THINK IS
SINGING IT?



AND
LEAVE
THE REST
OF US
UNAFECTED.

SHE'S
MODULATING
IT SO
IT'LL ONLY
AFFECT
THE
TARGET...



IS THAT
IT'S SO
POWERFUL
IT PUTS
EVEN THE
SPELL
CATER
TO
SLEEP.





AM
SUCH
TENTATION...

RESONANCE
SO
SHARP...
CAPTURES
ME...

POULSEN
TO
ARREST
OLD AND
DARKLY
SO CRY
A OFF...

YES...
BUT
IT IS
INDISCREET
TALK...

BUT...















You'll
find
me
soon
enough.

WH...
WHAT'S
SHE
TRYING
TO
DO...?



BWAAAAA!!!



THE
DROWNEES
ARE
CLEANLY
UP!

















...DESERVE
TO KNOW
HOW
GOOD
KETCHY
IS!







CHAPTER 260

Creative Destruction















THE
KEY IS
SO WE
CAN
OPEN
THE
DOOR...

AND...



...OR
IF SHE
REALLY
CAN
BREAK
ANY
THREAT?

BUT IF
THESE
THAT
KID-
THING
SHE
COULDN'T
DESTROY?

...THERE'S
NOTHING
THEY
CAN'T
DESTROY

IF
THAT'S
THE
CASE...

WE
NOT IN
MIND
THAT
MAY...
BUT...

HOLD
ON!









**BUT
THE
DO
PAIN.**

IF I
COULD
SHAPE
THE
ANGLE,
DEFLECT
AND
BLAST
INTO
HELL...



AND THERE
ONLY ONE
HUT.







...IS A
CHALLENGE
FROM A
NEW
OPPONENT.

AND THE ONE
THING
SHE
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE
TO RESIST...



...IS
POSITIVE.

HIS
GREATEST
PLEASURE...



IN
OTHER
WORDS...



THAT'S
NOT
THE
POINT!

...YOU
WANT
TO
SHOW
OFF
FOR
WILLARDSON.



TO SHOW
HIS
WHAT
YOU'VE
GOTT

...AND
WHY
CAN'T
THAT
BE THE
POINT



SO
DO IT
WELL

AND
I LIKE
A GUY
WHO
DOES HIS
DUTY.



IF
YOU ASK
ME, IT'S
A GUY'S
DUTY TO
SHOW
OFF
FOR HIS
GIRL...















IT'S
NOT
THEY
ONE
SUCKER
DOWN



AND
JUST
THAT
THAT
SECOND

IT'S
THEY
THE
SUCKER
UP



DOWN

IT'S
JUST
THE
THAT
A
DOWN



DOWN

YES



NO
POSSIBILITY
TO
STOP HIM...



I CAN
FEEL...
THE
REACTION
BUILDING
IN THE
AIR...

YES
FEEL...



I
CAN
FEEL
BUT
NOT
YET
PLAN...



SHHH

...THAT
THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU
CAN'T
DO THAT

HOW
SWEET
HE...













CHAPTER 261

The Limits of Strength











WHAT
HAVE
YOU
DONE
TO
KENCANT?



...I AIN'T
DONE
ANYTHING
TO HIM.



YA GOT
THAT
WRONG...











WACK



SLAP











"LAST, MAKING IDIOTS "WELL, WHO IS TO BE GUILTY?" IS USUALLY USED TO LEAD TO THE POINT AT WHICH YOU'VE FINISHED PROVING YOUR ARGUMENT. IN THIS CASE, THE ONLY POINT IS...



...AH-H-
NO! WE
REALLY
WOUND
YOUR
BUTT!



RIGHT.



BUT
WHAT IF I
COULDN'T
DESTROY
IT? WHAT
THEN?

IT WAS
CLEVER TO
MAKE ME
TRY TO
BREAK
THE
DOOR.



WHAT?

THAT
SAID, I
WANNA
ASK YOU
SOME-
THING.













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As the Specials would say, this is the dawning of a new dawn! Just two months ago, we completed our program of reissuing in Japanese reading format all the early volumes (1–20) of *Oh My Goddess!* that Dark Horse, between 1994 and 2005, originally published in Western reading format.

It took a while, because we were also doing newer volumes in Japanese format, starting with vol. 21, then going back to redo vol. 1, then doing vol. 22, then going back to redo vol. 2, etc., etc., as you know. A... A but with vol. 40 in December 2011 and vol. 30 this February, we're finished at last, and now you can read all of *Oh My Goddess!* just as Fujikawa intended.

With the past taken care of, we now proceed to the present and the future! Recently, we've been running your letters in the redone early volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* But since those are now completed, we'll take a break from the features we've been running in *Enchantress* since vol. 24—Fujikawa-sensei's comments on the early days of *Oh My Goddess!* in Japan—and catch up with more of your letters instead.

Via e-mail, Benjamin Schneider says:

Hey, guys (and Fujikawa-san, if he's reading this).

I've been reading *GANG!* through my school's library (and it may interest you guys

that my big bro, Alex, reads your *Mass Effect* graphic novel series—he's a *Mass Effect* fan, and also an *F-Zero* fan, so I think he'd like that *Fujikawa-san* is also a fan of *F-Zero*, though I haven't told my big bro that yet), and I really like it.

Anyways, I have some questions . . . First, is *Medica* based off a real place in Japan? That'd be pretty cool if it is. Also, if there was a *Team Fortress 2* (a VERY GOOD multiplayer FPS by Valve) mod based off of *GANG!* (like with the mod *Insouthern Fortress 2*, if you've heard of it), which characters do you guys think would represent each of the nine classes?

Personally, I think *Keiichi* would be the Scout, *Tomoya* would be the Heavy, *Mara* would perhaps be the Pyro, *Bellikandy* would be the Medic, *Urd* would be the Spy (remember, in volume 2, *Urd* DOES spy on *Keiichi* and *Bellikandy* . . . technically, later, she's more like the Medic, but I prefer her as the Spy), and *Skuld* would be the Engineer (I wrote, one reason being *Urd* and *Skuld*'s sibling rivalry, and the fact that in TF2, the Engineer and Spy are enemies because the Spy can easily destroy the Engineer's buildables using his *Electro-Sapper* . . . so yeah, it works out). So that leaves the Soldier, Demoman, and Sniper. What characters from *GANG!* do you guys think would best represent those classes?

Also, sorry that I was unable to submit fan art this time, but oh well, maybe next time. Anyways, I'd appreciate it if this letter made it into the next volume, and if it does, thank! Keep up with the great work, and

demo origami for some great volumes to
test it!

P.S. It's OK to print my full name and
email address.

Benjamin Donald "Gallatinmcat" Schroeder
gallatinmcat@hotmail.com

Dear Benjamin,

I appreciate that your school library carries *Oh My Goddess!*, so please thank your librarian for me. Also, Dave Marshall (who is the editor of *Mass Effect* here at Dark Horse) says "thank you" to your brother! One of the great things about working at Dark Horse is the opportunity to be exposed to people who know not just manga, but video games, American comics, European comics—comics from all over the world, in fact. One reason we try our best to put out good-quality manga is because, even though we didn't help create them, we can understand all the work that the creators put into it, because we publish a lot of original comics ourselves, and we know they all start off as blank sheets of paper—somebody has to write the stories, and somebody has to draw them!

As for whether Nekomi is based on a real place, that's a good question. We know from vol. 1 that the fictional Nekomi City is supposed to be located in the real-life Chiba Prefecture (where Kazuko Fujishima is from), and it is sometimes asserted that Nekomi Tech is based on the Chiba Institute of Technology. They have an English-language website (<http://www.it-chiba.ac.jp/english/index.html>) and accept foreign students, so perhaps you can investigate and decide for yourself! (Any place that has a Department of Advanced Robotics sounds promising. . .)

A lot of people are into *Bakugan* these days! I haven't played it myself, but I think it's very elegant-looking, with the game play looking like flowers or fireworks. But

as for what TP2 doeses the OMG! characters would portray, I think Otaki needs a role. How about making him the Heavy and Tamiya the Soldier? Admittedly that's just going off the story way back in vol. 1 (chapter 6), where it turns out he's got a full set of medieval plate armor, a cloak, and a longsword. Otaki seems like the kind of guy who might name his weapons. And something about the fact the Soldier has a helmet and shovel suggests Tamiya, who loves construction work.

If we can include nonhuman characters (and why not, because we've already got goddesses and demons in the mix), perhaps Glühende Herz should be the Sniper. I mean, Glühende Herz even looks like a rifle, and has shown herself (Urd says it's a female broom) skillful in shooting through the Gate and determining the exact position of targets, even in the dark. Not to mention that sharp and—good as a killer! Maybe Urd should be the Demonian, too! I'm just going by her dusky, drinking ways. But what can I say?! When it comes to the eye, Demonian has got to be Thyrn!

By the way, speaking of *Valve* and *Team Fortress 2*, did you know that Dark Horse is doing comics with *Valve*, and already has a book out! That's right! Available now is *Valve Presents: The Sacrifice* and other *Steam-Powered Stories*, in which half the comics are about TF2! It's edited by Rachel Eddle, whom I was fortunate enough to work with on *Yakihiko Amano and Hink's Illustrated novel Shinkjuu*.

And here's another e-mail, from a fan in the United Kingdom, Chris Cox, whose last letter appeared in *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 19:

Hello, I just wanted to write to say how much I love the series. Thank you for publishing it in English. It's an amazing story. I have just finally got around to reading *Oh My Goddess! First End*—it was such a sad novel.

Is there any chance there will be a sequel, or is it just left to us to work out our own ending?

I have a theory (and I'm sure you get a lot of letters like this) of how a second novel, or even the end of the series, might go when the time comes (and by the way, I hope it's not for a very long time).

Perhaps like this: Bellodondy gets to see how Keiichi's life could have been without her—marriage, kids, etc.—and what if she then realizes all the things a human needs to be happy . . . and what if she sets the wheels in motion to give him those things? What if she changes the course of their future and is able to grant the things I guess most humans desire?

I believe there's a slight possibility that's how a second novel could go, or even how the manga could go. And I could be way off, but you never know. Even after that, there's so much more that could be done—for example, they have a child (half goddess, half human) growing up in the earth realm, and maybe visiting Heaven . . . There's lots of ideas about how the story could continue.

Anyway, I love this series. I've got every volume to date from 1 to 39, and 40 and 19/20 as preorder. I also have *Oh My Goddess! Colors*, as well as first *End*. This story has always inspired me.

I do hope you find time to reply to this email. I know that you're very busy, but please pass my regards to Mr. Kouka Fujishima, for his work has inspired many. He should be very proud.

Chris Cox

Chris, don't worry about us being busy—after all, it's our job here at Letters to the Brunchtress to reply! As for another novel to follow *First End*, that's perhaps up to Yumi Takano and Kazuko Fujishima. As far as I know, Takano-san hasn't written anything more, but of course, as you may know, she's

one of the busiest voice actors in Japan, so she may not have much time.

My personal view of the relationship between Keiichi and Bellodondy is that they are already very happy together. If Bellodondy were a human woman, it might seem strange that they've been living under the same roof together for years, and yet rarely even kiss, let alone decide to get married and have children. But of course, Bellodondy is a goddess. All the goddesses we've met so far have been good looking, but Bellodondy is not only beautiful, but kind and empathetic, able to bring out the goodness and potential for growth in everyone (even demons and robots ^.^). With Uri and Skuld, she also shares the charm of being very down to earth, so to speak. Despite being a divine being, she just enjoys hanging out and doing regular human activities. She even happens to share Keiichi's love of competitive racing (having been a broom racing champ in Heaven, as he found out to his surprise in vol. 38).

If such a person as Bellodondy were to actually exist, you can imagine that just getting to be in their presence every day would make you happy. I think Keiichi would like to develop his relationship physically with Bellodondy, but I don't think that affects his basic level of happiness with her. Some people try to be intimate because they feel insecure about their love, but I think Keiichi and Bellodondy have no doubts about their love for each other.

Having said that, I think it's possible that, as you suggest, Bellodondy might come to worry that KJ is not really happy because they don't have the some kind of relationship that two human beings might have. Of course, we don't know if it's even possible for a goddess and a mortal to have children (a demoness and a god can—witness Uri—but such beings may be more like each other than they are like humans).

Two people can love each other very much, and yet still not completely understand each other. When one of those people is divine and the other is a mortal, it's difficult to imagine how they could ever completely understand each other. I think in some ways the relationship may be stronger for Bellondy than it is for Katschi. It may be that it's not so much the idea of physical contact with a mortal that's strange (Phonix and Urd seem to suggest this is not a problem for goddesses), but living together with them in a permanent relationship. We don't even know if gods and goddesses have permanent relationships—Bellondy, Urd, and Skuld's father apparently didn't.

Here's a thought: Urd is the goddess of the past, and we know she once had a boyfriend (Thraudodour) who is no longer around. Skuld is the goddess of the future, and it would not be surprising in time to see her and Senteiro become girlfriend and boyfriend. But Bellondy is the goddess of the present, and an eternal present is what she seems to have with Katschi. I'm sure that's too simplistic, but . . . ^_^

Anyway (there's always an "anyway" with *Oh My Goddess!*), we'll look forward to seeing you all again in vol. 42!

—COH

P.S. The translation used for the title of Chapter 236, "A Visto," does not refer to a "visto" in the sense of a pleasant view. Rather, "A Visto," although originally Italian for "on view," is also the technical term adopted into English-language stage direction to indicate a scene change that is done without lowering the lights completely (or at all). We decided this would be a good translation of the original chapter title, *metten*, which has the same meaning in Japanese theater.

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_~



Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

41

THRYM—IN NORSE LEGEND,

the frost giant who once stole Thor's hammer! But in *Oh My Goddess!*, Thrym is no legend. She's a very real, buff demomess who stands guard over the next chamber of Hell, aiming to stop Keiichi and the goddesses in their journey to free Hild. To defeat this massive door warden, spells won't be enough—and Belldandy must engage in something shocking (for her) . . . hand-to-hand combat!

Winner of the thirty-third Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English!

